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is in them the subtle power of interpretation which is necessary to make one person's impression of what is distant in space or time really understood by others.

The places and incidents of the narrative, however, supply, in fact, but a setting for the personalities. It is in the portraiture of people of large and distinctive character that the chief value of the reminiscences consists. In the delineation of such persons the author's skill in truthful representation is at its best. Men such as Henley and "Bob" Stevenson, who are drawn, so to speak, full length, are presented with the delicacy and the revealing skill of a portrait painter. It is characteristic of Mrs. Pennell's art and of her fine reserve that the features fall, as it were, into vagueness or shadow, just at the point where speculation about human minds and souls begins to become a bit futile or impertinent.

The people of the story, Vedder, Duveneck, Henry Harland, Aubrey Beardsley—of whom quite a new impression is given—Phil May and the rest, all appear before us informally, in friendly wise, with no notion apparently of putting the best foot forward and rather with a desire not to appear especially clever, but completely themselves. Whistler, too, seems always present throughout the narrative, in spirit if not in body. Then, too, there are the lesser lights and the eccentrics. There is Donoghue, in despair because he could not find in Rome a youth as beautiful as himself to pose for his Young Sophocles. "To listen to him was to believe that Narcissus had come to life again." There is the weary Jobbins—who was unwilling to paint any but a great picture, and who could never find his theme in Venice, "where there is nothing to paint that has not been painted hundreds, or thousands, or millions of times before." There is the ingenious "Mr. Forepaugh," who knew everything, and there are many more of these candid and self-revealing persons of greater or less talent for art or for amusement.

To readers who value the finer shades of truth in the more intimate interests of life, these recollections of Mrs. Pennell's, full of the stimulus and gaiety of fine friendship and fine acquaintance with people of genius, will prove a precious book.

THE CHURCH ENCHAINED. By the Reverend William A. R. Goodwin. New York: E. P. Dutton and Company, 1916.

It is a vast and vital subject which Dr. Goodwin treats in his discourse upon the relation of the Church to the modern world, which he has entitled *The Church Enchained*. To many thoughtful observers it has seemed that the present war has been the *reductio ad absurdum* of Christianity. We read very frequently regretful references to the passing of the old era, to the downfall of Christian civilization, and to the possible coming of new gods. Not only

is the present devastation of Europe a violent challenge to Christian ideals, and an apparent demonstration of the ineffectiveness of Christian teaching, but it has seemed to show that the Church is powerless. Men are asking with an intensity hardly ever equalled before what religion is, what the Christian Church is. Out of this questioning, out of the trials of beliefs by fire, it is likely that a new and stronger faith will finally emerge. It will henceforth be impossible, one feels, for men to palter and chop logic about religious matters, as they have done in the past, or to be content with half-beliefs or hypocrisies. One of the results to which a more robust and more profound religious faith seems likely to lead is a closer approach to unity among the churches of the world and especially, perhaps, in America—a drawing together as regards the essential matters of faith and practise that would make religion a more effective force for the betterment of man's estate.

Church unity is, in fact, the theme of Dr. Goodwin's book. For the general reader, the treatise does not wholly satisfy. In the first place Dr. Goodwin treats a theme of enormous import from a rather special point of view; for though he takes a really wide view of his subject as a whole, he writes chiefly of church unity as seen from within the Church of England. The treatise, therefore, is of more interest to churchmen than to others, and this, considering the magnitude of the subject and the receptiveness toward it that is beginning to appear, is disappointing. In the second place it may be said, without failure to recognize Dr. Goodwin's intense sincerity and his breadth of mind, that his discourse tends to be somewhat diffuse; and the style throughout is not always that of one who has completely mastered the secret of eloquence upon a weighty topic. Despite these features, however, Dr. Goodwin's book, because of its breadth and its energetic earnestness, is worthy of serious consideration. It is symptomatic of a tendency that may grow to unforeseen importance.

IMPERILLED AMERICA. By John Callan O'Laughlin. Chicago: The Reilly Britton Company, 1916.

It is important, indeed, as Mr. O'Laughlin declares in the preface of his recently published work, *Imperilled America*, that the general public should be informed of the causes which have led eminent statesmen to demand that the United States be prepared against war. The difficulty is that all these causes are, in the nature of the case, somewhat speculative, and the result of this is that it is in some cases no easy matter to bring home to the man in the street the reality of the dangers which are said to threaten this country. At the present stage of the preparedness discussion—a stage in which preparedness, despite the vagueness of popular